



Thanksgiving Holiday Travel

November 16, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

Like many of you, Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays when I look forward to celebrating with my family and friends. Unfortunately, this year it will be different, and though it will still be a wonderful holiday, it will be one spent only with my immediate family. While I am disappointed, this is a sacrifice that needs to be made in the interest of the health and well being of our extended family, our friends and all those with whom we will come in contact.

Over the last eight months, we have all had to make adjustments to our lives in response to the pandemic, and we are in the midst of a critical point in its management. With the second wave of COVID-19 facing us as we enter the holiday season, we all have to do even more than we have previously to ensure that we are doing our part to reduce the spread of the virus in our community. Therefore, I am asking you to join me in making similar sacrifices: please do not travel outside of our immediate region; wear a face mask and social distance when you are outside of your home; stay home when feeling ill and seek medical attention; and wash or sanitize your hands frequently. Together, we can make a difference and help to keep the Irvington schools open for our students to attend in-person learning. Without taking to heart the requests that I have made, hopes of increasing student attendance on site or even maintaining the current model of attendance will be diminished.

During the holiday season, we also know that many of our college students will be returning home. I ask that all of the community members who are looking forward to this reunion follow the New York State travel guidelines that require testing and quarantining. [These details can be found by following this link.](#) Additionally, parents, I know our children want to socialize outside of school, but we must demonstrate responsible actions in these scenarios too. As much as we want to organize social events, play dates, parties and sleepovers, it is simply not wise to do so at this time. So, please continue to be creative and promote or coordinate social experiences that are compliant with all New York State Department of Health guidelines.

Thank you very much for your personal efforts in helping to keep our community a healthy one by being COVID-aware.

Take good care,

Kris

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